

# **Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

## **Headless Well Riparian Exclosure** **NEPA Number** DOI- BLM-AZ-C010-2012-31-CX

### **A. Background**

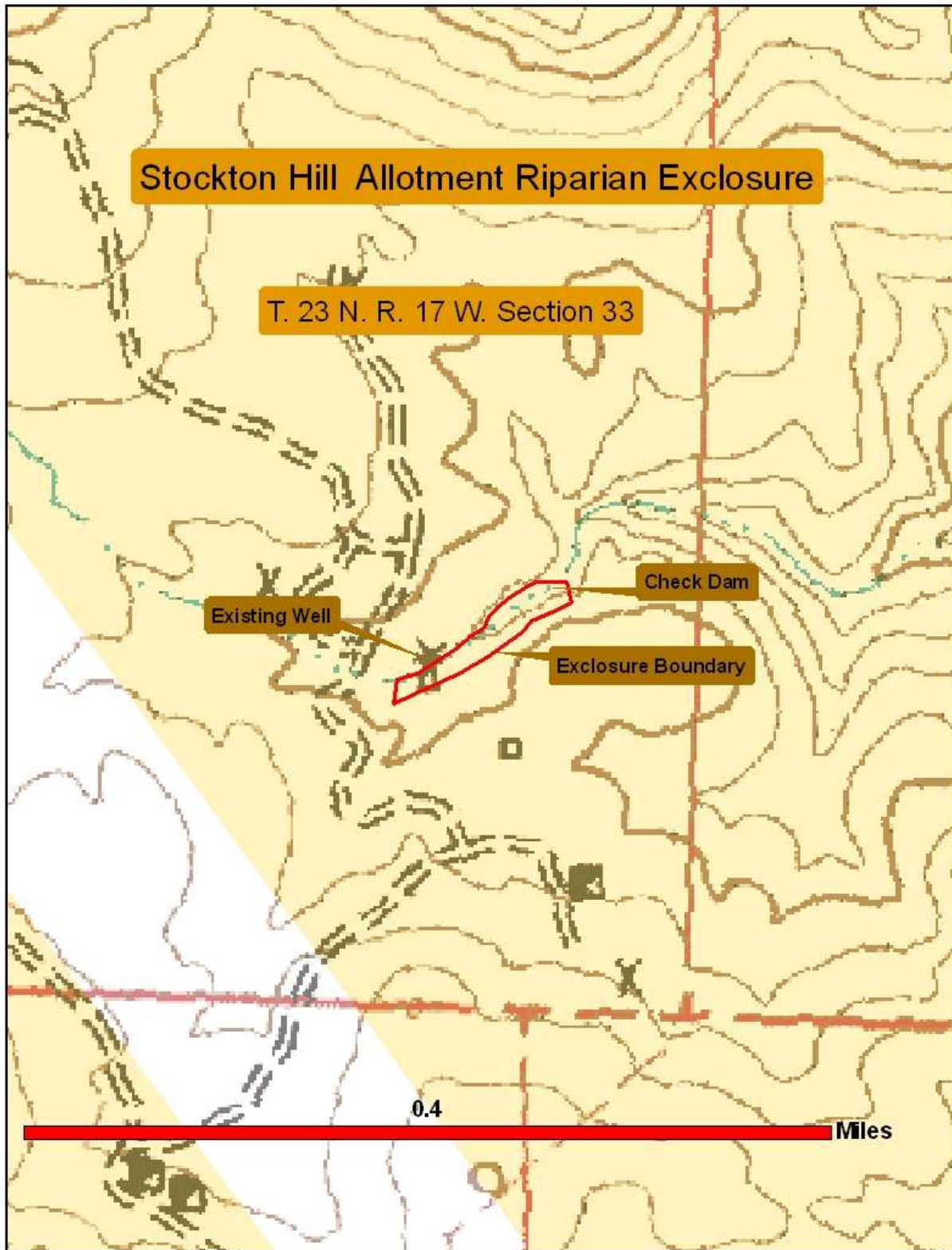
BLM Office: Kingman Field Office                      Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Headless Well Riparian Exclosure

Location of Proposed Action: Township 23 North Range 17 Section 33 SE1/4 SE1/4

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would install a fence around the spring source and existing riparian habitat. The exclosure would be approximately 0.5 acres in size. The fence would be constructed to exclude livestock and would provide between two and four crossing structures for wildlife. The fence would be 52 inches tall with one strand of smooth wire 16-18 inches off the ground and four strands of barbed wire spaces evenly above it. T-posts would be placed every 16 to 20 feet with two to four wooden stays in between. The wildlife crossing structures would consist of a 16 foot section of fence that has a PVC pipe with the top two strands of barbed wire threaded through it. This lowers the height of and adds visibility to the fence. This provides a means for deer to cross the fence safely and access water. Additionally the BLM would build a check dam approximately two ft. tall out of concrete and native rock to allow the riparian area to catch some sediment, develop, and hold more water. The Dam would be located approximately 150 yards downstream of the spring source and would be constructed of concrete and native rock. A pipe and valve would be installed in the dam to provide emergency water to livestock outside of the riparian exclosure when the existing well was not functioning. A small amount of vegetation would be removed in order to install the fence but no more than necessary. Vegetation removed would consist of a few juniper trees and some chaparral type shrubs. The chaparral vegetation would likely grow back within a few years.

**Map 1. Location of Proposed Riparian Exclosure.**



## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*

Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

- GM-13/I Improve wildlife habitat by providing more forage, cover, and water (RMP page 461 and objective from the Cerbat/Black Mountains (1978) grazing EIS (Program Document page 1).
- GM-23/V All fences will be designed for wildlife access around watering facilities and in bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope ranges (Program Document page 7).
- RP01/I Restore and maintain riparian-wetland areas, so that 75 percent or more are in proper functioning (satisfactory) condition by 1997 (page 54). The overall objective is to achieve an advanced ecological status, except where resource management would require an earlier ecological status for such purposes as vegetation diversity. Riparian-wetland areas and associated uplands would be protected through proper land management and avoiding or mitigating negative impacts. The BLM would acquire and expand key areas to provide for their maximum public benefit, protection, enhancement and efficient management.
- RP08/V Smaller riparian areas such as springs, seeps, canyon bottoms and other water-influenced areas would be managed to improve riparian conditions. Riparian improvement techniques could include, but are not limited to, construction of exclosure fences around riparian zones and piping water outside to grazing animals, rotation of livestock grazing and development of alternate water sources. (page 86)

## C. Compliance with NEPA:

1. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, [CX. J. **Other 7.** *Construction of small protective enclosures, including those to protect reservoirs and springs and those to protect small study areas. CX A Fish and Wildlife 2. Minor modification of water developments to improve or facilitate wildlife use (e.g., modify enclosure fence, install flood valve, or reduce ramp access angle)].*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (See Attachment 1), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the fence and the check dam and determined that the only impact to the upland vegetation would be the loss of a few individual juniper trees and some shrubs to make a path for the fence line and for use as posts in the fence. Juniper trees and shrubs are common in the area and their population would not be noticeably impacted by this project. The shrubs would likely grow back after being cut. Further the protection of the riparian area and spring would result in an increase of the quality and quantity of riparian habitat in the area. Riparian habitat is one of the most important habitat types in the arid southwest and its protection is a priority. Further the site was inventoried for archeological resources on 01-25-2012 and no cultural resources would be impacted by the implementation of this proposed action.

#### **D. Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez Date: 3/8/12  
(Signature)

Name:

Title:

#### **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Ammon Wilhelm  
Wildlife Biologist  
Kingman Field Office  
928-718-3758

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX. See Attachment 2.

## Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Extraordinary Circumstances	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988) national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No- there are no resources that would be significantly impacted.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No – the only use that would be excluded by this project is livestock grazing but water would continue to be available to livestock on the outside of the fence.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No– a cultural survey found no sites that would be impacted by this project.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No – No threatened or endangered species would be impacted by this project as none occur in the area.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	No

### Headless Well Riparian Enclosure

DOI- BLM-AZ-C010-2012-31-CX

## Approval and Decision

### Attachment 2

**Compliance and assignment of responsibility:** Wildlife Program

**Monitoring and assignment of responsibility:** Wildlife Program

**Review:** *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** /s/ Ammon Wilhelm **Date:** 3/8/2012  
*Ammon Wilhelm Wildlife Biologist*

**Reviewed by:** /s/ Ramone B. McCoy **Date:** 3/7/2012  
**NEPA Coordinator**

**Reviewed by:** /s/ Don McClure **Date:** 3/8/2012  
*Don McClure*  
**Supervisor**

**Project Description:** The BLM would install a fence around the spring source and existing riparian habitat. The enclosure would be approximately 0.5 acres in size. The fence would be constructed to exclude livestock and would provide between two and four crossing structures for wildlife. The fence would be 52 inches tall with one strand of smooth wire 16-18 inches off the ground and four strands of barbed wire spaces evenly above it. T-posts would be placed every 16 to 20 feet with two to four wooden stays in between. The wildlife crossing structures would consist of a 16 foot section of fence that has a PVC pipe with the top two strands of barbed wire threaded through it. This lowers the height of and adds visibility to the fence. This provides a means for deer to cross the fence safely and access water. Additionally the BLM would build a check dam approximately two ft. tall out of concrete and native rock to allow the riparian area to catch some sediment, develop, and hold more water. The Dam would be located approximately 150 yards downstream of the spring source and would be constructed of concrete and native rock. A pipe and valve would be installed in the dam to provide emergency water to livestock outside of the riparian enclosure when the existing well was not functioning. A small amount of vegetation would be removed in order to install the fence but no more than necessary. Vegetation removed would consist of a few juniper trees and some chaparral type shrubs. The chaparral vegetation would likely grow back within a few years.

**Decision:** Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

**Approved By:**       /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez      

**Date:**       3/8/12      

**Type name here**  
**Field Manager, Kingman Field Office**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTATION RECORD

**Project No:** BLM-AZ-310-12-08 **Project Name:** Proposed Exclosure at Headless Well

EA, Job or Case File No.:

Institution:

Cultural Resource Use Permit No:

**Inventory Method:** ☒ Existing Data Review ☐ Class II ☒ Class III

**Eligibility Recommendation (for sites located):**

Not-eligible sites (list site numbers): 2

Eligible sites (list site numbers): 0

**Effect Recommendation (only on eligible sites from above):**

☒ No Historic Properties Affected

☐ Adverse Effect

☐ No Adverse Effect

**Treatment Recommendations:** (check and attach full description and map(s) as needed):

☒ Avoidance (by project redesign/cancellation, etc.)

☐ Physical or administrative protection measures

☒ Standard stipulations

☐ Special stipulations

☐ Data recovery (collection, excavation, detailed recording, etc.)

**Consultation:**

☒ Covered under PA, no further consultation required with SHPO or ACHP

Consultation required: ☐ SHPO ☐ Advisory Council ☐ Native Americans

**Comments:** Standard stipulations apply

**Proposed undertaking:** BLM KFO wishes to construct an exclosure around a small canyon to keep cattle away from sensitive natural resources.

**Project location:** Township 23 N, Range 18 W, Section 33, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Stockton Hill 7.5 topographic quadrangle maps.

**Inventory:** Survey consisted of systematic, parallel transects of the proposed exclosure area. Method was sufficient for identifying any significant cultural resources.

**Standard Stipulations:** Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Land Management authorized representative. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized representative to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

**Findings:** Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations set forth in 36 CFR 800, BLM has determined that this undertaking would have no effect on historic properties, as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1)(1).

**Attachments:** None

Signed (by archaeologist): /s/ Tim Watkins

Date: 2 /09 /2012

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